

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Check the Coast at Tax Time***Help Put the "Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund" Over the Top***

This tax season, Californians can help support our treasured coast and ocean while, of all things, filing their taxes! The Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund is a "check box" under the Charitable Contributions section of the State personal income tax form. When preparing tax returns, Californians can simply write the donation amount next to the fund title (or ask a tax preparer to do so) and support grants to clean our shorelines, restore habitat, bring underserved kids to the coast, promote access to the coast, and invest in the long term health of our coast and ocean.

This year, we need Californians' help to keep the fund on the State forms. The law requires a minimum total contribution of \$250,000 to remain on the tax form for the following year. Although there wasn't a minimum requirement last year, we ended up in striking distance of this goal by raising \$242,000. We can get over the top this year with your help!

There are two ways to help. First, make contribution when you file your taxes. Second, spread the word by encouraging friends and family to donate to the Fund. One way to do the latter is by taking and posting a "Coastie" on your social media networks. A "Coastie" is a photo of yourself at the coast making the "check mark hand" gesture (see photo) with a message urging others to join you and #checkthecoast. Let your social networks know that you support our magnificent coast and ocean!

100% of the funds donated to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund will be distributed as grants to non-profit organizations, schools, and local agencies for coastal and marine-related projects. These projects are an investment in the long-term protection of our coast and ocean. You can learn more about what the funding supports at www.CheckTheCoast.org

The California Coastal Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination. The Public Education Department supports this mission by working to promote coastal stewardship.